

## BENJAMIN F. GOSS BIRD CLUB

The Benjamin F. Goss Bird Club was founded to increase knowledge and appreciation of birds through education, research, preservation and conservation, and to provide public awareness of birds and their role in the environment - all of which remains our goal and purpose to this day.

Unless otherwise noted, events are held Retzer Nature Center, 514 W28167 Madison Street, Waukesha, WI 53188

Retzer Nature Center is located about 4 miles west of Waukesha, near the end of Madison Street.

### UP-COMING EVENTS

- **December 17**  
**Christmas Bird Count**
- **January 8**  
**Wisconsin's Public Lands**

For a full schedule, see the club's website.

# THE GOSS HAWK

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 20, 2016

## The Story of Peter, Charles, Tom & Fred

A Moment from the Archives with Jennifer Tyskiewicz

I have long-wanted to share the story of the four boy-hood friends, who as teenagers in the 1950's and 1960's, became members of the B.F. Goss Bird Club. Three of them went on to earn PHD's in the Biological Sciences in various areas of the country. Tim Hahn's great idea of "The Goss Hawk" newsletter provides the perfect venue for a story that needs to be told in installments. Thus, I'm beginning with the first installment in this November, 2016 issue.

As the story unfolds, you'll get a glimpse of what birding was like for four young boys living within blocks



WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

of one another in the middle of 1950's Waukesha, and how the mentoring by members of the B.F. Goss Bird Club influenced the boys' lives and careers, as they were taken "under the bird club's wings," so to speak.

Older club members will undoubtedly recognize the names of the four "characters" in this story, as the boys became somewhat well-known in ornithological circles. They are Peter Weber, Charles Sontag, Tom Soulen and Fred Alyea. The recollections that I'll share are primarily those of Peter We-

ber's, who sent a marvelously long and detailed "memory document" to the club in 1996, and will also be based on "memory letters" shared by Charles Sontag and Tom Soulen upon our club's 60th and 80th anniversary celebrations.

In the second installment of "A Moment from the Archives," you'll be heading out to bird in an area of Waukesha bounded by N. East Avenue, McCall Street, N. Charles Street, and Wright Streets. Peter describes it as "brushy with a central field." So.....grab your binoculars.....and make sure that your mom knows where you're going!

# Take Five... with Paula Stich

Paula Stich has been a member of the Goss Bird Club for 10 or so years. In 2015 she was elected club treasurer. Paula has worked at Wild Birds Unlimited for 25+ years, and is a friend to all 2 legged, 4 legged, and winged creatures. Thank you Paula for being our guinea pig in the initial installment of "Take Five.... with"

**1. When did you start birding, and do you have a "spark bird"?** - I starting birding in 1994, the year after I started working at Wild Birds Unlimited. My spark bird would have to be the Cedar Waxwing.  
**2. Where is your favorite birding spot? It can be anywhere.** - I can't think of a favorite spot. I've been to so many great birdy places, I can't pick just one. I guess wherever the birds are!  
**3. Besides birds, what**

**aspects of nature thrill you the most?** - The changing of the seasons, being someplace so dark you can see the Milky Way, the northern lights, learning the name of a new wildflower, a good thunderstorm.  
**4. How did you come to join the Goss Bird Club?** - I already knew Anne because we worked together at WBU and a few members of the club were customers at the

store. I joined the club because I wanted to learn more about birds and to spend time with people that had similar interests as mine.  
**5. What is your favorite birding memory?** - My favorite birding memory has to be the trip I made up to Superior, Duluth and Sax Zim Bog with my mom during the Great Grey and Northern Hawk Owl invasion. It was early February and the temps were in the 50s! And the owls did not disappoint! They were everywhere!

## Recent County Sightings

- Red-shouldered Hawk - Retzer NC October 8 (Big Sit)
- Nelson's Sparrow - Calhoun Creek Prairie - October 16
- Northern Goshawk - Engle Conservation Area - October 31
- Black Scoter (4) - Lake Okauchee - November 6
- Blue-winged Teal - Middle Genesee Lake - November 12
- Surf Scoter - Middle Genesee Lake - November 13
- Snow Goose - Oconomowoc Fire Station Pond - November 13
- Surf & Black Scoters—Middle Genesee Lake - November 19

*"If I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes." -- Charles A. Lindbergh*

# 2017 Waukesha CBC

AREA GROUP LEADER PHONE

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- 1. **OPEN** 262-542-0313 Waukesha/Fox River
- 2 . Jasonn Weber 262-796-9896 Phantom Lake/SE Area
- 4 . Jim Toft 262-544-6584 Vernon Marsh
- 7 . Mike Fort 262-968-3276 North Prairie/Genesee Depot/Wales

- 8. Anne Moretti 262-965-3860 South Kettle Moraine
- 10. Jennifer Tyskiewicz 262-786-0172 Retzer Nature Center
- 13. Sandy Pearson 262-968-9846 Nagawicka/Pewaukee Lake Area
- 14. Wally Hahn 262-547-1004 Dousman Area/Nelson's Woods